Conflict By The Numbers:
The Story of Conflict Through Numbers

Conflict is a serious disagreement or argument, and is incompatible between two or more opinions or interests. Math and numbers help to tell the story of conflict by visually representing facts such as how many died or how long the conflict was fought, without needing all of the words to help explain. Numbers are for the most part self-explanatory, and they provide a whole lot of information in not a whole lot of characters.

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America's Wars Through the Years

Every single war that the Unites States has participated in has affected the country in one way or another, whether it be financially or a devastating amount of casualties, or any other way that it could have impacted America. These numbers give an overview of what each war was like, and in what aspects it affected the country.

American Revolution (1775-1783)

Number of Service Members: 217,000

Total Deaths: 4,435

Total Casualties: 10,623

Total Cost of War: $2,407 million

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{217000}{4435} = \frac{49}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{217000}{} = \frac{20}{}$$

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

Number of Service Members: 286,730

Total Deaths: 2,260

Total Casualties: 6,765

Total Cost of War: $1,553 million (2.2% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{286703}{2260} = \frac{127}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{286703}{6765} = \frac{42}{1}$$

Mexican War (1846-1848)

Number of Service Members: 78,718

Total Deaths: 13,283

Total Casualties: 17,435

Total Cost of War: $2,376 million (1.4% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{78718}{13283} = \frac{6}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{78178}{17435} = \frac{5}{1}$$

Civil War (1861-1865)

Number of Service Members: 3,263,363

Total Deaths: 498,332

Total Casualties: 780,213

Total Cost of War: $79,742 (11.3% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{3263363}{498332} = \frac{7}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{3263363}{780213} = \frac{4}{1}$$

*This number is most likely lower, but

Spanish-American War (1898-1902)

Number of Service Members: 306,760

Total Deaths: 2,246

Total Casualties: 4,108

Total Cost of War: $9,034 million (1.1% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{306760}{2446} = \frac{125}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{306760}{4108} = \frac{75}{1}$$

World War I (1917-1918)

Number of Service Members: 4,734,991

Total Deaths: 116,516

Total Casualties: 320,518

Total Cost of War: $334 billion (13.6% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{47349901}{116516} = \frac{41}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:

World War II (1941-1945)

Number of Service Members: 16,112,566

Total Deaths: 405,399

Total Casualties: 1,076,245

Total Cost of War: $4,104 billion (35.8% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{16112566}{405399} = \frac{40}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{16112566}{1076245} = \frac{15}{1}$$

Korean War (1950-1953)

Number of Service Members: 5,720,000

Total Deaths: 54,246

Total Casualties: 157,530

Total Cost of War: $341 billion (4.2% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{5720000}{54246} = \frac{105}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{5720000}{157530} = \frac{36}{1}$$

<u>Vietnam War (1964-1975)</u>

Number of Service Members: 8,744,000

Total Deaths: 90,220

Total Casualties: 243,523

Total Cost of War: $738 billion (2.3% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{8744000}{90220} = \frac{97}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{8744000}{243523} = \frac{36}{1}$$

<u>Desert Shield/Storm (1990-1991)</u>

Number of Service Members: 2,322,000

Total Deaths: 1,948

Total Casualties: 2,415

Total Cost of War: $102 billion (0.3% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{2322000}{1948} = \frac{1192}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
$$\frac{2322000}{2415} = \frac{961}{1}$$

<u>Global War on Terror (October 2001-)</u>

Number of Service members: 2,333,972

Total Deaths: 6,795

Total Casualties: 58,671

Total Cost of War: $2.2 trillion (2.9% GDP)

Total served compared to total deaths:
$$\frac{2333972}{6795} = \frac{343}{1}$$

Total served compared to total casualties:
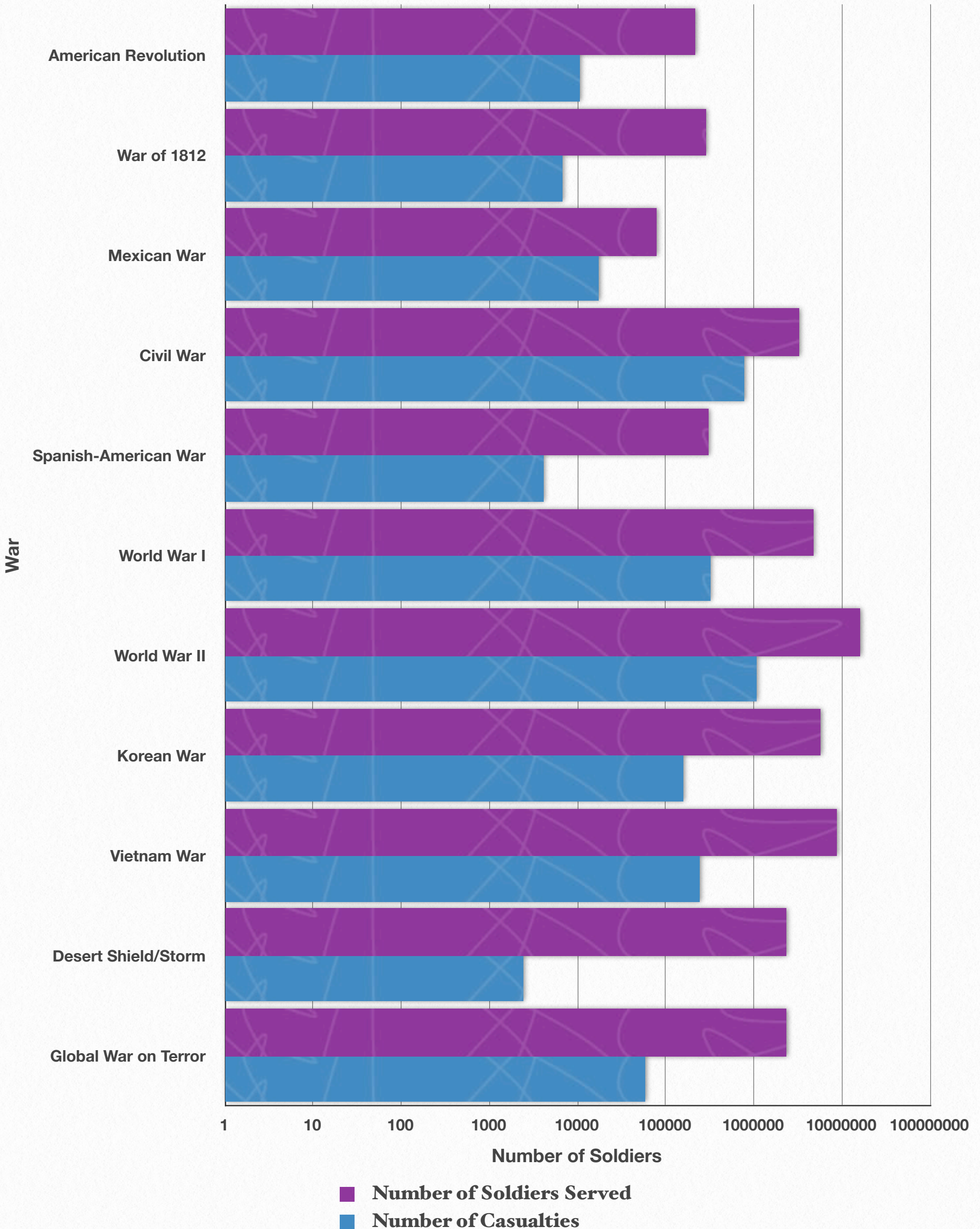$$\frac{2333972}{58671} = \frac{40}{1}$$

According to all of the data that has been shown about all of the wars, the Civil War was the most devastating, because there were so many deaths, more deaths than any of the other wars that the United States has fought in (when you combine the Confederates and Union deaths). This may be because only Americans fought in the war (because it was in fact, a Civil War). Just in the Civil War alone, 498,332 people died (with about 75% of these deaths in the Union alone). This number also means that over 100,000 Americans dies a year, which is a huge number! The war with the second largest amount of deaths would be WWII, with 405,399 deaths.

Just based on the ratios for all of the wars, the Civil War would (again) be the most devastating war in U.S. history. According to the ratio for total served compared to the amount of casualties, the Civil War had a ratio of $\frac{4}{1}$, which means that for every four soldiers that served in the war, one would either die or be wounded in combat, and this number is actually lower, but the number of Confederates is unknown. Another way to put it would be that 25% of people who served in the war either ended up dying or were wounded.

Number of Soldiers Served Compared to Number of Casualties

War (vertical axis)

- American Revolution
- War of 1812
- Mexican War
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War
- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Desert Shield/Storm
- Global War on Terror

Number of Soldiers (horizontal axis, logarithmic): 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10000, 100000, 1000000, 10000000, 100000000

Legend:
- Number of Soldiers Served
- Number of Casualties

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World War II

World War one was full of new beginnings along with some endings. It was full of devastating events and new inventions. There were so many things during this time that changed history and affected millions.

World War II

World War II (1941-1945) started when Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939, because Adolf Hitler (the leader/dictator of Germany at the time) wanted more land, especially in the east. The war was generally fought in both Europe and Asia, although most countries were involved in one way or another. This war was the largest armed conflict in history, and also included the most countries, and it was the first time nuclear weapons were used. There were over 50 million deaths throughout the four years that the war was being fought (even including all of the genocide), which is more than any war to date.

The biggest event that occurred during WWII was the Holocaust, which was the mass murdering of Jewish people and other groups. This was done by the Nazis, who's leader was Adolf Hitler. They believed that the Germans were "racially superior", and that the Jews were "inferior" and "unworthy of life". Other groups that were targeted (who were also believed to be inferior) included the Gypsies, the handicapped, and the Slavic people (Poles, Russians, etc.). Many were sent to concentration camps, where the living conditions were awful, and many died from fatigue or malnutrition, and others were murdered with many different tactics, including gas chambers. Over 6 million Jews were killed by the time that the Holocaust was over.

The war was resolved when Hitler committed suicide on May 8, 1945. War spread fast throughout the globe, and the war was officially over in Europe and other western countries, but in the far East (like Japan),

they didn't consider the war over, because on August 6th and 9th, 1945, they dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This was a big turning point on the war, because everyone thought it was over, and no one thought things could get worse, and these atomic bombs killed more people than a thousand bombs. It took a long time for the Emperor of Japan (Hirohito) to surrender, but he finally does on September 2, 1945, which officially ended WWII for good.

Countries Involved with the War:

- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Bulgaria
- Hungary
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Austria
- Ethiopia
- The Republic of China
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Newfoundland
- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Soviet Union
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Columbia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saudi Arabia
- Turkey
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Algeria
- Albania
- Belgium
- Burma
- Checkoslavia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Greece
- Iceland
- India
- Iran
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Morocco
- The Netherlands
- New Guinea
- Norway
- Philippines
- Poland
- Singapore
- Syria
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Yugoslavia

World War II By the Numbers

Total served: 16,112,566

Total deaths: 405,399

Total casualties: 1,076,245

Cost of war: $4,104 billion (in today's money)

Number of soldiers served compared to number of deaths*: $\dfrac{40}{1}$

*This ratio means that for every 40 soldiers that served in WWII, one person would die.

Number of soldiers served compared to number of casualties*: $\dfrac{15}{1}$

*This ratio means that for every 15 soldiers that served in WWII, one would either die or become wounded in combat.

Total number of deaths compared to number of years fought*: $\dfrac{101350}{1}$

*This ratio means that for every year that WWII was being fought, 101,350 people would die.

Total number of casualties compared to number of years fought*: $\dfrac{269061}{1}$

*This ratio means that for every one year that WWII was being fought, 269,061 people would either die or become wounded in combat.

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Global War on Terror

The Global War on Terror is the most recent war that the United States has been in, and it may be the most crucial one that they have been in. They are mainly fighting to end terrorism, which the al-Qaeda group does not agree with.

The Global War on Terror

The Global War on Terror (October 2001-present) started when the terrorist group al-Qaeda attacked the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and an attempt to attack the White house on September 11, 2001. This was a truly devastating event to the United States, because some of their most precious places in the country were attacked. This wasn't the first time, though, that al-Qaeda had attacked the United States, because on February 26, 1993, they had attacked the World Trade Center with a large truck bomb in the garage, which killed 6 people, injured over 1,000, left a 6-foot crater, and left over $300 million in damage.

After a lot of discussion, George W. Bush (the president of the United States at the time) declared war on al-Qaeda on March 20, 2003, where allied forces started strikes on military targets, and also an attempt to kill Saddam Hussein, who was the dictator of Afghanistan from 1979-2003.

Key Events:

- **December 13, 2003:** Saddam Hussein is captured by United States forces.

- **December 30, 2006:** Saddam Hussein is executed by being hung in his home.

- **March 23, 2008:** The number of service members to die reaches 4,000.

- **May 2, 2011:** Osama bin Laden is killed in his home by United States forces.

- **December 15, 2011:** The United States formally declares an end to their operations in Iraq during a ceremony in Baghdad.
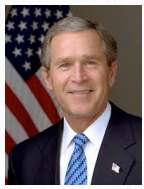
<u>Key People:</u>

- **Osama bin Laden (1957-2011)** was the founder of al-Qaeda, and he planned both attacks on the World Trade Center. He was expelled form Sudan after he made an unsuccessful assassination attempt on the president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak. He then relocated to Afghanistan and later joined the Taliban. He was on the FBI's most wanted list from 1999 until his capturing and execution in 2011.

- **Saddam Hussein** was the dictator of Afghanistan from 1979 until his execution in 2006.

- **George W. Bush (1946-present)** was the president of the United States during the attacks on September 11, 2001, and he was also the one to declare war on al-Qaeda.

- **Barack Obama (1961-present)** was the one to declare the war over in Iraq, and is the current president of the United States.

The war is not yet over. There are still soldiers over in Afghanistan, and it is still unknown when this conflict is likely to be resolved.

Global War on Terror By the Numbers

Total served: 2,333,972

Total deaths: 6,795

Total casualties: 58,671

Cost of war: $2.2 trillion (in today's money)

Number of soldiers served compared to number of deaths*: $\dfrac{343}{1}$

*This ratio means that for every 343 people that served in the Global War on Terror, one would die.

Number of soldiers served compared to number of casualties*: $\dfrac{40}{1}$

*This ratio means that for every 40 people who served in the Global War on Terror, one would either die or be wounded in combat.

Number of deaths compared to number of years fought*: $\dfrac{566}{1}$

*This ratio means that for every year that the Global War on Terror has been fought, 566 people have died.

Number of casualties compared to number of years fought*: $\dfrac{4889}{1}$

*This ratio means that for every year that the Global War on Terror has been fought, 4,889 people have either died or be wounded in combat.

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Comparing Conflicts

A proportion is a set of numbers that are used to compare (in relation to a whole), and two can be set with an equal sign in the middle to show that they are similar, and they can be solved by using algebra and cross-multiplying.

When comparing the two wars that are presented in this book, use the proportions that are used to compare the total service members and the number of casualties, (not the simplified version) and put an equal sign in the middle of the two ratios. Then, you set one of the numbers as x, and then cross multiply to get the value of x.

Similar Circumstances

Total service members compared to number of casualties:

$$\frac{16112566}{1076245} = \frac{2333972}{58671}$$

$$\frac{16112566}{x} = \frac{2333972}{58671}$$

x=405,035

WWII on left, GWOT at right.

This is basically saying that if WWII had the EXACT same conditions as the Global War on Terror, then, theoretically, about 405,035 people would either have died or become wounded in combat. If these two wars were similar, World War II would be more devastating, because over 405,000 people died or were hurt, whereas for the Global War on Terror, there have only been about 58,671 casualties.

Total casualties compared to number of years fought:

$$\frac{1076245}{4} = \frac{58671}{12}$$

$$\frac{1076245}{x} = \frac{58671}{12}$$

x=220

WWII on left, GWOT at right.

This proportion is saying that if the conditions between WWII and the Global War on Terror were exactly the same (or similar), then it would take 220 years for the same amount of people to die (at the same pace). This also means that, again, WWII is the more devastating war, because it only took 4 years to kill as many people as it would 220 years if the conditions were the same as the GWOT.

Looking back at all of the differences of each war, some factors that may have contributed to the extreme differences probably include the difference in technology, and the precautions that soldiers took. Soldiers nowadays wear a lot more protection, including bullet proof vests and very sturdy helmets, along with deadly weapons that could potentially save their lives. There were also more diseases and other things that people were not immune to back then, so that could have done something. Another thing that has to be put into consideration was the Holocaust, where millions were killed in a very short amount of time. It is also a big surprise, because millions were killed just 4 years, whereas less than 60,000 people who have served in the Global War on Terror have died or been wounded in combat.

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Wisconsin's Contribution

It is considered patriotic to serve your country by joining the military, and there have been many in the state of Wisconsin that would agree with that. Since the Civil War, almost a million (known) soldiers have been from Wisconsin. They have given their lives for their country, and are not ashamed of it. It is something that they can admit to with their heads held high, knowing that they have done good for millions in both their country and their state.

Wisconsin vs. The United States

Civil War

Number of WI Service Members: 91,379

Number of WI Casualties: 12,216

Total served in WI compared to WI casualties:
$$\frac{91379}{12216} = \frac{7}{1}$$

Total served in America to American casualties:
$$\frac{3263363}{780213} = \frac{4}{1}$$

World War I

Number of WI Service Members: 122,215

Number of WI Casualties: 3,932

Total served in WI compared to WI casualties:
$$\frac{122215}{3932} = \frac{31}{1}$$

Total served in America to American casualties:
$$\frac{4734991}{320518} = \frac{15}{1}$$

Korean War

Number of WI Service Members: 132,000

Number of WI Casualties: 729

Total served in WI compared to WI casualties:
$$\frac{132000}{729} = \frac{181}{1}$$

Total served in America to American casualties:
$$\frac{5720000}{157530} = \frac{36}{1}$$

Mexican War

Number of WI Service Members: 4,168

Number of WI Casualties: N/A

Total served in WI compared to WI casualties:
N/A

Total served in America to American casualties:
$$\frac{78718}{17435} = \frac{5}{1}$$

World War II

Number of WI Service Members: 332,200

Number of WI Casualties: 8,390

Total served in WI compared to WI casualties:
$$\frac{332200}{8390} = \frac{40}{1}$$

Total served compared to American casualties:
$$\frac{16112566}{1076245} = \frac{15}{1}$$

Vietnam War

Number of WI Service Members: 165,400

Number of WI Casualties: 1,239

Total served in WI compared to WI casualties:
$$\frac{165400}{1239} = \frac{133}{1}$$

Total served in America to American casualties:
$$\frac{8744000}{243523} = \frac{36}{1}$$

<u>Global War on Terror</u>

Number of WI Service Members: 34,543

Number of WI Casualties: 123

Total served in WI compared to WI casualties:
$$\frac{34543}{123} = \frac{281}{1}$$

Total served in America to American casualties:
$$\frac{2333972}{58671} = \frac{40}{1}$$

Even just based off of the ratios, America as a whole was more devastated with these conflicts than the state of Wisconsin alone. All of the Wisconsin ratios are a lot smaller compared to those of the United States, and are saying that there were a lot more casualties in America than just the state of Wisconsin. This may have been different if more people from Wisconsin were involved with these conflicts, and that is probably why the ratios are so low. Another factor is that most of the Wisconsin soldiers come back unharmed (physically), which would also help with the result of their low ratios.

Wisconsin Veterans

County of WI	Population of County	State Population	% of veterans within County
Kenosha County	11,663	397,644	3%
Racine County	13,380	397,644	3%
Walworth County	7,534	397,644	2%
Milwaukee County	48,037	397,644	12%
Waukesha County	28,795	397,644	7%
Total of all 5 Counties	109,409	397,644	27.5%

<u>Veterans in Wisconsin Receiving Compensation (for a family of 3):</u>

% Disabled	Monthly Compensation Pay	Yearly Compensation Pay	# of Veterans Receiving Compensation	Total Cost
30%	$483.75	$5,805	5,300	$30,766,500
40%	$687.97	$8,255.64	4,004	$33,055,582.56
50%	$960.19	$11,522.28	2,556	$29,450,947.68
60%	$1,207.04	$14,484.48	2,889	$41,845,662.72
70%	$1,505.66	$18,067.92	2,479	$44,790,373.68
80%	$1,746.41	$20,956.92	1,770	$37,093,748.40
90%	$1,962.81	$23,553.72	1,019	$24,001,240.68
100%	$3,134.32	$37,611.84	4,147	$155,976,300.50

In my opinion, there is no price that can be put on these men and women who have served for the United States, because they have risked their lives in serving their country, but in general, I feel like they are being paid a fairly good amount of money, although those who are less disabled could be paid more, because they did still serve their country, regardless if they got hurt or not, so they deserve more money than what they are getting.

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